

# Strategies for Conflicting Viewpoints Passages of the TJHSST Entrance Exam

Read and understand two or three statements about scientific theories or hypotheses that conflict with one another.

## How will I know it is a Conflicting Viewpoints passage?

- Includes a short introduction paragraph and two to three statements
  - Frequently labeled: *Scientist 1*, *Scientist 2*
- Usually will not have many (if any) charts, tables, graphs, or other diagrams

## What types of questions will I be asked during these passages?

- Understanding Viewpoints
  - These questions check to make sure you understand each author's point of view
  - Often may ask: what would researcher X predict to happen?
- Comparing Viewpoints
  - Asks you to point out the similarities and differences between each author

## Three steps for tackling Conflicting Viewpoint Passages

### IDENTIFY THE PHENOMENON

This is usually located in the very first paragraph. What is the main subject the students or scientists are studying?

### UNDERSTAND THE BASIC THEORIES

Ask yourself, how are the basic theories different? How are they similar, if at all? Underline these as well so you can easily reference them later.

### CIRCLE THE SUPPORT

Once you've located and underlined the basic theories of each scientist, identify what they are using to support their theory.

### Strategy 1: Save It for Last

- This is usually the most difficult passage for students so save it for last of all of the five passages

### Strategy 2: Read Selectively & Mark the Margins

- Read the first sentence of the introduction and the first sentence of each argument
- Write a quick note in the margins to help you remember what the position of each scientist is

### Strategy 3: Look for Locators

- Many questions will often be asking about only one viewpoint at a time, be sure to go back and read the correct viewpoint to get your answer

